

Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2001

Meeting Time 9 AM- 1 PM

**Meeting Location:
Metering Building, Second Floor Conference Room
SPU Operations Control Center
2700 Airport Way South
Seattle, WA**

Members Present: Bruce Bachen (SPU), Sam Wright (Washington Trout), Dave Paden (Puget Sound Anglers), Dennis Moore (MIT), Scott Brewer (King County), Steve Foley (WDFW), Frank Urabeck (NW Marine Trade Association), Bill Robinson (Trout Unlimited), Roger Tabor (USFWS), Tom Sibley (NMFS)

Other Participants: Bill Wells, Cyndy Holtz (SPU), John McGlenn (Tetra Tech/KCM)

- I. Call to order.** Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:05.
- II. Approval of agenda.** The agenda was approved as presented.
- III. Minutes review and approval for April 19, 2001 meeting.** The minutes were approved as submitted.
- IV. Landsburg fish passage project**
Bill Wells gave a report on the status of the fish passage project, including the SEPA process, proposed changes to the design as a result of the value engineering process, and the Basis of Design Report approval. As part of the public review process, the SEPA document, including a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) was submitted to King County. King County notified the City of Seattle that they had concerns about the DNS. A meeting was conducted with SPU and King County staff to discuss their concerns, which focused on the impacts of bank hardening, The construction of rock weirs as a passage alternative, and mitigation of impacts of the project. The meeting resulted in agreement between the two agencies that defined how King County staff could contribute to the design process as it proceeds. The response to the project by kayakers and canoeists was mixed and Bill will continue to work with interested parties as the design proceeds. The SEPA process was completed without any appeals being filed.

Bill's report also included an explanation of the two primary design revisions being recommended as a result of the value engineering process. The first revision is the relocation of the fish screens 200' downstream to eliminate the need for a temporary bypass facility. The second revision involves passive separation of adult chinook to minimize handling and using a pescalator to lift fish for sorting instead of a lock or fish ladder. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Parties to the Landsburg Mitigation Agreement to approve the Basis of Design Report with the above-described design revisions.

V. Interim mitigation for coho, chinook and steelhead

Bruce distributed text from the HCP that describes certain criteria that must be satisfied before the Parties can approve funding for emergency supplementation. He asked that this language be provided to those who might develop funding proposals so proposals can be responsive to the criteria. One provision included in the HCP requires monitoring of any emergency supplementation effort that is implemented under this HCP component. The Committee is waiting to receive proposals from the co-managers on emergency supplementation.

VI. Initiation of Cedar River sockeye hatchery program development

Now that the design contract has been executed, a meeting is being planned for May 29, 2001 to brief the Cedar Sockeye Hatchery Design Team. The purpose of the briefing is to bring the various interests together to meet one another; to provide the design team with knowledge about the various perspectives on the project, and to help the team develop an appreciation and understanding of the work that has been developed thus far. It will also clarify the opportunities for various interests to participate in the project. The team has been provided with a number of background documents in preparation for the briefing, which includes the Science Panel's recently completed "Cedar River Sockeye Salmon Hatchery Plan." The Science Panel will be discussing this report at the design team briefing. A briefing on Broodstock Collection alternatives report from Northwest Hydraulic Consultants will be available at the June AFC meeting. Chinook Engineering has been retained to develop more specific recommendations for the broodstock collection facilities and to begin the process of site identification; information that will be used by the TetraTech/KCM hatchery design team.

VII. Public comment (scheduled for 11:30). No public comment was received.

VIII. Information/ discussion

1. Hatchery status report – Ron Warren (not present)
2. Cedar River report – Steve Foley. Steve reported that they are still engaged in steelhead spawning surveys, which will likely be in the 50 to 100 fish range. They trapped 2 female steelhead this year at the locks for broodstock. They decided to release those females back into the river because they were unable to collect any males. They had a couple of fish through the counter last week, with the assumption that they are steelhead. They saw one fish in the viewing window with an adipose fin clipped. It was smaller than they would expect

for a summer run steelhead, so it could have been from supplementation. Frank asked about an official count for sockeye escapement on the Cedar for 2000; Steve replied approximately 150,000. Dave asked about outgoing smolt migration. Steve was unable to report on that yet. Bruce added that this could be a record year for sockeye fry. Steve added that in Bear Creek they have counted 40,000 spawners, but not a lot of fry. Steve predicts 1-1/2 to 2 million sockeye fry from Bear Creek. Substantial losses of sockeye fry to predation may have occurred based on sampling done by Roger Tabor. The forecast for the sockeye run is 300,000 for 2001.

IX. Plan next agenda for meeting scheduled for June 15, 2001

X. Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 11:45.